



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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DECEMBER PROGRAMS OFFERED AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

Saguaro National Park is offering special programs this fall that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Come along on a naturalist-led evening walk in the park, or join a local expert for a presentation in one of our visitor centers. *Programs are offered at both the east and west districts.* Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change – call the visitor centers for schedule updates or for reservations.

Special Programs offered at the Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) include:

December 4 3:00 p.m. Ironwood Forest National Monument *guest speaker*
West of Saguaro National park is a piece of beautiful Sonoran desert protected by the Bureau of Land Management. Join guest speaker Laura Thomson-Olais and learn how to get there, what to do out there, and about volunteer opportunities with the BLM. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 11:45 a.m. Snakes *45 minute talk*
Learn about the communication skills, special adaptations and defense systems of these often misunderstood creatures. A bit of folk lore is also shared. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

Dec. 3, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 31 2:15 p.m. The CCC in Saguaro National Park *45 min. illustrated talk*
The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Depression-era work program that had a great influence on parks throughout the Nation. Saguaro's trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. A brief history of the CCC in this area will be illustrated with old photos and movie clips. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

December 17 4:00 p.m. Twilight Glow to Moon Shadows *2 mile hike*
This easy 3½-hour stroll bridges sunset and darkness, letting hikers experience the desert both in the twilight glow and in moon shadows. Advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

December 18 3:15 p.m. Sunset Hike *3½ mile hike*
This 3½-hour hike climbs 700 feet (with some switchbacks) before reaching a beautiful ridgeline for the sunset. The descent is by the light of the moon. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

December 19 4:00 p.m. Moon Take Night Make Day Hike *2½ mile hike*
Hikers on this gentle, relatively flat 3-hour hike travel up a desert wash during the transition from day to night, enjoy the sunset atop a hill, then return under the moonlight. Reservations are required – call 733-5158.

December 21 6:30 p.m. Moonrise Over the Mountains *45 minute patio talk*
Relax around a campfire on the visitor center patio as the full moon rises above the cactus forest. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing. No reservations required. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) include:

Dec. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 9:00 a.m. Desert Morning Hike 4 mile hike

Join volunteer Dick Hollenback on this 3-hour, 4-mile hike to explore Saguaro National Park. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring water and a trail snack.

December 1, 8, 16, 22, 29 3:00 p.m. People and Places of Saguaro's Past illustrated talk

Join Park Ranger Arlo Ogden in the visitor center auditorium for this photo tour of the park's historic past, focusing on the stories told by its historic structures. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

December 3, 10, 17, 31 8:00 a.m. Desert Bird Walk easy hike

Join volunteer naturalists Vicki Powers and Ralph Terry for an easy 2-hour walk in search of desert birds. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

December 3, 17 7:00 p.m. Night Walk 1 mile hike

Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

December 4, 11 3:00 p.m. Yesterday, Today ...and Saguaro? illustrated talk

What will the world's changing climate mean for the National Parks? Will our children find glaciers in Glacier, coral reefs in Hawaii, Joshua trees in Joshua Tree? And what does a warmer, drier Arizona future hold for our signature Giant Saguaro? Ranger Jeff Wallner will pose these questions that only your future decisions can answer. Meet at the visitor center for this 45-minute auditorium presentation. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

December 9 7:00 p.m. Star Party

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

December 30 5:30 p.m. Holiday Car Caravan guided auto tour

Explore the natural lore of the solstice holiday on a unique nighttime drive through the park's loop drive. Auto tours will be offered at 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30 and 8:00 p.m., and will feature several stops along the 8-mile Cactus Forest Drive. Each tour lasts approximately 1½ hours. Cookies and cider will be offered at the visitor center all evening. As space is limited, advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

Daily Programs

The park's two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)
2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743

(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730

(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu

www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpa.org

www.rinconinstitute.org